

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Amendments have been made to remedy the informalities noted by the Examiner in claim 1. The other claims have been reviewed, and amended as appropriate. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 was objected to, and the Examiner requested that it be placed in independent form. To advance prosecution, Applicant has made the requested amendment. However, by this amendment, no change of scope has been made or intended.

In accordance with the Examiner's request, a clean copy of the claims is shown on the pages after the signature of the undersigned.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and objection of record. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to the effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Appln. No. 10/582,620
Amdt. dated January 18, 2009
Reply to Office action of October 17, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

CLEAN COPY OF CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for processing electronic tag information, the apparatus receiving product identification codes read from electronic tags, each product identification code having a product class identifying code, the apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device, coupled to the processor, having a computer program stored therein;

wherein product information is provided, or stored in the storage device, and wherein the product information comprises first and second information, the first information of each product class having a product class identifying code, a flag indicating whether the product class is a set product class or not, a product name, and a price, the second information of each set product class having a product class identifying code of the set product class, a product class identifying code of individual product class contained in the set product class, and a number of the individual products contained in the set product, wherein both of the product class identifying codes of the set product class and the individual product class are included in the first information, and

the computer program causes the processor to perform the steps of:

(a) for each product identification code read from an electronic tag and provided, incrementing a corresponding product cumulative count for a corresponding product class identification code;

(b) determining whether the product identification code read from the electronic tag and provided is for a set product or not by referring to a corresponding flag of the second information,

(c) if it is determined that the product identification code is for a set product, subtracting the number of the individual products in the set product by referring to the second information from a corresponding product cumulative count for a corresponding individual products class identification code;

(d) calculating the mathematical product of a product price in the first information and a product cumulative count for each product class identification code; and

(e) outputting a receipt to a printer based on the product cumulative count and the calculated mathematical product.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus for processing electronic tag information according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(f) in response to the end of information-reading from electronic tags, outputting information associated with a product class identification code whose product cumulative count is negative, and associated with a product cumulative count thereof.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus for processing electronic tag information according to claim 1,

wherein, in step (e), the receipt includes outputting the product name, the calculated mathematical product, and the cumulative sum of the product class identification code.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus for processing electronic tag information according to claim 1,
wherein a mode signal is further provided,
wherein the computer program causes the processor to, in step (d) when the mode signal indicating a sale-statement mode, output deficiency information, as the associated information, of the individual products contained in the set product when the cumulative count of the individual products class is a negative value.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus for processing electronic tag information according to claim 4,
wherein the second information is composed of a table having a field of the product class identification code and a field of the flag,
wherein the computer program causes the processor to, in step (b), judge whether or not the product name class identification code is for a set product of individual products based on the table.

6. **(Previously presented)** A POS terminal comprising an apparatus for processing electronic tag information, the apparatus receiving product identification codes read from electronic tags, each product identification code having a product class identifying code, the apparatus comprising:
a processor; and
a storage device, coupled to the processor, having a computer program stored therein;

wherein product information is provided, or stored in the storage device, and wherein the product information comprises first and second information, the first information of each product class having a product class identifying code, a flag indicating whether the product class is a set product class or not, a product name, and a price, the second information of each set product class having a product class identifying code of the set product class, a product class identifying code of individual product class contained in the set product class, and a number of the individual products contained in the set product, wherein both of the product class identifying codes of the set product class and the individual product class are included in the first information, and

the computer program causes the processor to perform the steps of:

(a) for each product identification code read from an electronic tag and provided, incrementing a corresponding product cumulative count for a corresponding product class identification code;

(b) determining whether the product identification code read from the electronic tag and provided is for a set product or not by referring to a corresponding flag of the second information,

(c) if it is determined that the product identification code is for a set product, subtracting the number of the individual products in the set product by referring to the second information from a corresponding product cumulative count for ~~of the~~ a corresponding individual products class identification code;

(d) calculating the mathematical product of a product price in the first information and a product cumulative count for each product class identification code; and

(e) outputting a receipt to a printer based on the product cumulative count and the calculated mathematical product,

wherein the product information is provided from other information processing apparatus which manages the product information in a unified way.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product, comprising: a computer readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon for processing electronic tag information, wherein the computer program causes a processor coupled to a storage device to perform the steps of, under the condition that product information is provided, or stored in the storage device, wherein the product information includes: first and second information, the first information of each product class having a product class identifying code, a flag indicating whether the product class is a set product class or not, a product name, and a price, the second information of each set product class having a product class identifying code of the set product class, a product class identifying code of individual product class contained in the set product class, and a number of the individual products contained in the set product, wherein both of the product class identifying codes of the set product class and the individual product class are included in the first information, and

(a) for each product identification code read from an electronic tag and provided, incrementing a corresponding product cumulative count for a corresponding product class identification code;

(b) referring to a corresponding flag of the second information for judging whether the product identification code read from the electronic tag and provided is for a set product or not, subtracting the number of the individual products of the set product gotten from

the second information from a corresponding product cumulative count for a corresponding individual products class identification code when the judgment is positive;

(c) calculating the mathematical product of a product price in the first information and a product cumulative count for each product class identification code; and

(d) outputting a receipt to a printer based on the product cumulative count and the calculated mathematical product.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product according to claim 7, wherein the computer program further causes the processor to perform the steps of:

(e) in response to the end of information-reading from electronic tags, outputting information associated with a product class identification code whose product cumulative count is negative, and associated with a product cumulative count thereof.